

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of October 18, 2005, wherein the Examiner rejected Claims 1-12, all the claims pending in the application. Reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy in conducting the recent interview of November 3, 2005. During the discussions of the interview, Applicant argued the patentability of the claimed invention and the Examiner advised that she had a better understanding of the invention.

In order to better define the invention, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to affirmatively recite that the inventive tape roll includes deformations in each sheet of the substrate and adjacent at least a portion of one of the side edges and the separable edge in order to provide spacing along one of the side edges and the separable edge with the abutting underlying sheet of the roll. As a result, the separation of the outer sheet is facilitated.

The primary reference relied upon by the Examiner is the patent to Jaffri (6,014,788), which describes a tape roll for lint removal. The only mechanism taught in Jaffri for facilitating the separation of an outer sheet in the roll of Jaffri is the use of a non-adhesive tab 15 (see Fig. 2). According to Jaffri, it is used as a grip in discarding adhesive sheets after they have been used. In use, tab 15 is pulled backward, tearing a sheet from the roll. Nowhere does Jaffri teach or suggest the formation of deformations along at least one of the side edges and the separable leading edge of each sheet in order to facilitate separation of each sheet from the roll. Accordingly,

Claim 1 is patentable over Jaffri, whether taken alone or combined with the secondary reference to McKay. Indeed, McKay is merely relied upon by the Examiner for teaching a non-adhesive portion formed along at least one of the side edges and the separable edge of the substrate. McKay is devoid of any teaching regarding the use or formation of deformations along one of the side edges and the separable edge of each sheet of the roll.

New independent Claim 18 describes the use of a resilient element to facilitate separation of each sheet of the tape roll. The resilient element is disposed adjacent at least a portion of one of the side edges and the separable edge of each sheet. As before, this feature is neither described nor suggested by the teaching in Jaffri, taken alone or combined with McKay. Accordingly, it is submitted that new independent Claim 18 is also directed to allowable subject matter.

The remaining independent claim (new Claim 21) is similar to Claim 1 in that it recites the use of deformations that are formed in each sheet in order to facilitate separation of the sheets.

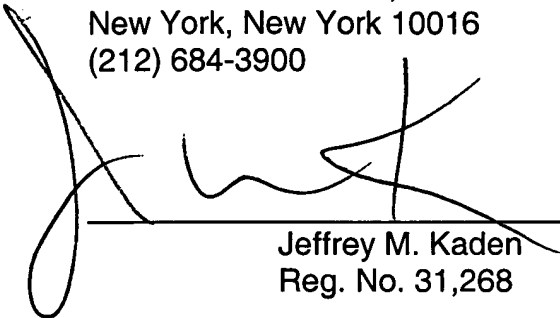
Therefore, it is submitted that Claims 1, 3-6, 10 and 12-21, all the claims now pending in the application are directed to allowable subject matter.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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